

BRAAM SETTLEMENT MONITORING REPORT

MARCH 28, 2006

Covers the performance period of
July 24, 2004 through December 31, 2005



***Braam
Oversight
Panel***



The Braam Oversight Panel was created in 2004 to oversee a Settlement regarding Washington State's foster care system. The Settlement was reached after a six-year period of litigation. The named Plaintiff, Jessica Braam, is an adult who lived in 34 foster homes by the time the suit was filed in 1998. The Settlement is intended to improve the conditions and treatment of children in the custody of the state's Division of Children and Family Services.

The Panel was created to monitor improvements in selected services and ensure quality standards are met over the next seven years. This independent Panel was mutually selected by the parties (the Plaintiffs who filed the lawsuit and the state of Washington). The Panel, working in collaboration with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and with substantial input from the Plaintiffs and other stakeholders, developed an Implementation Plan for the six areas specified in the Settlement. This document is the first monitoring report on the Settlement and covers the period 7/31/04 to 12/31/05.

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BACKGROUND

The Braam Oversight Panel was created in 2004 to oversee a Settlement regarding Washington State's foster care system. The Settlement was reached after a six-year period of litigation between the state of Washington and Plaintiffs' attorneys. The lead named Plaintiff, Jessica Braam, is an adult who lived in 34 foster homes by the time the suit was filed in 1998.

The goal of the Settlement is to improve the "conditions and treatment of children in the custody of the state's Division of Children and Family Services." In collaboration with Washington's Department of Social and Health Services (the Department), and with substantial input from Plaintiffs and other stakeholders, the independent Panel has responsibility to develop outcomes, benchmarks, and action steps, and to monitor compliance. The Settlement covers six areas:

- Placement stability
- Mental health services
- Foster parent training and information
- Unsafe or inappropriate placements
- Sibling separation
- Services to adolescents

The Settlement is a 16-page document with 14 goals. The Settlement incorporated over 50 provisions directly from the Department's comprehensive reform plan—Kids Come First II. This restructuring plan for children's services is described by the Department as an "aggressive effort to make long-lasting changes in the child welfare field [that] will further protect children and better address their medical and emotional needs."¹

To a significant extent, the Settlement directs the Department to perform activities required under Washington State law. Since 1987, 30 laws have been passed directing policies and procedures included in the Settlement.

The Panel provided an Implementation Plan in February 2006² that defines the specific and enforceable agreements required by the Settlement.

This monitoring report covers performance under the Settlement from 7/31/04 through 12/31/05.

¹ www1.dshs.wa.gov/geninfo/cws.html

² Braam Panel (2006, February). *Braam Settlement Implementation Plan*. Olympia, WA: Braam Panel. Available at <www.braampanel.org>

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OVERVIEW

The Braam Oversight Panel was created in 2004 to oversee a settlement agreement (Settlement) regarding Washington State's foster care system. The Settlement was reached after a six-year period of litigation. The parties to the Settlement include the Plaintiffs,³ who filed the lawsuit, and the State of Washington, respondents to the lawsuit.

The final Settlement created an independent oversight panel (the "Panel") that was mutually selected by the parties. The members include:

- A former child welfare administrator;
- A child welfare researcher;
- An expert in children's mental health; and
- Two additional members.

To ensure the Panel's independence, its members and staff are not funded by the state.⁴

The Settlement directed the Panel to establish professional standards, outcomes, benchmarks, and action steps to improve the treatment of, and conditions for, children in the custody of DCFS, and to monitor the Department's performance under this Settlement (Settlement, page 1). The intent of the Settlement, and the Panel's work, is summarized on the first page of the Settlement:

"The parties enter into this Agreement with the recognition that both parties and their counsel have committed to enter into specific, measurable, and enforceable agreements with the goal of improving the conditions and treatment of children in the custody of the Division of Children and Family Services."

Over 50 provisions from the Department's comprehensive reform plan for children's services—Kids Come First II—were incorporated directly into the Settlement. This plan assimilates the state's response to the Settlement, the Federal Child and Family Services Review, and the Gomez Fatality Review. The Department described the plan as a "bold long-term roadmap for creating and sustaining an improved child welfare system."⁵

Settlement Definitions

The Settlement defines the Plaintiff class as follows:

- **"Child" or "Children" in foster care** means children in the custody of DCFS. For the outcomes, benchmarks, and actions steps, this term refers to children in the Plaintiff Class, defined as all children in the custody of DCFS who are now or in the future will be placed by DCFS in three or more placements and those children in the custody of DCFS who are at risk of three or more placements. The Panel interprets this definition to include all children in the custody of DCFS.

³ The Plaintiffs' attorneys include Tim Farris, a Bellingham lawyer who initiated the case, Casey Trupin with Columbia Legal Services, and William Grimm with the National Center for Youth Law.

⁴ Casey Family Programs has funded the Panel's activities and staffing.

⁵ http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ca/imp_complIntro.pdf

- **“Department”** means the Department of Social and Health Services. In terms of responsibilities related to the Settlement, the most relevant divisions are the Children’s Administration and Health and Recovery Services (including the Division of Mental Health and the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse).

The Settlement established goals in six areas⁶:

- **Placement Stability:** Every child will have a safe and stable placement with a caregiver capable of meeting the child’s needs.
- **Mental Health:** Children shall have initial physical and mental health screenings within 30 days of entry into care. The child’s case plan will include plans to meet their special needs. Children shall receive timely, accessible, individualized, and appropriate mental health assessments and treatment by qualified mental health providers. Continuity of treatment providers will be maintained.
- **Foster Parent Training and Information:** Caregivers shall be adequately trained, supported, and informed about children in their care. The Department shall provide accessible pre-service and in-service training to all caregivers sufficient to meet the caregiving needs of children in placement.
- **Unsafe/Inappropriate Placements:** All children shall be placed in safe placements. The state shall continue to meet or exceed the federal standard for out-of-home care.
- **Sibling Separation:** Placement of siblings together is presumed to be in the children’s best interest unless there is a reasonable basis to conclude that the health, safety, or welfare of a child is put in jeopardy by the placement. Frequent and meaningful contact between siblings in foster care who are not placed together and those who remain at home should occur unless not in child’s best interest.
- **Services to Adolescents:** Improve the quality and accessibility of services to adolescents. Improve the educational achievements of these adolescents and better prepare them to live independently. Reduce the number of adolescents on runaway status from foster care.

Panel Work Products

Under the Settlement, the Panel issues the following types of documents:

- **Implementation Plan**⁷ defining the specific and enforceable performances required by the Settlement; and
- **Monitoring (Progress) Reports** measuring progress toward the Settlement goals, outcomes, benchmarks, and action steps for each six-month period.⁸

Implementation Plan. An implementation plan was issued in February 2006.

Monitoring Reports. The Panel is to publish progress reports every six months. This March document is the first of these documents.

⁶ The Final Settlement is available on the Braam Oversight Panel website: www.braampanel.org.

⁷ Previously titled “Design and Specifications Report.”

⁸ The Implementation Plan is released simultaneously to the parties and the public. In the case of Monitoring Reports, the parties have agreed that CA and the plaintiffs will receive preliminary reports and be given time to comment before the documents are released to the public. Panel reports released for public distribution will be posted on the website; individuals and organizations can sign up to receive email alerts when new material is posted.

SUMMARY FINDINGS

Approach

This monitoring report covers performance from the date of the Settlement (July 24, 2004) through December 31, 2005. Most provisions in the Settlement within this time period were designated as action steps and incorporated from Kids Come First II.⁹ Some action steps were not part (or not fully part) of Kids Come First II but were agreed upon and incorporated into Kids Come First II after the Settlement. The Panel's assessment of progress is presented in a matrix format starting on page 7.

This monitoring report differs from future monitoring reports as it focuses exclusively on action steps in the Settlement and not on the benchmarks, outcomes, and additional action steps from the Panel's Implementation Plan. For future reports, the sources will be administrative data, sample case reviews, and surveys. The primary sources for this report are documents from the Department: two update reports summarizing progress and other written material (policies, plans, etc.).

As a first step in this monitoring report, the Panel requested that the Department describe its progress and provide documentation. The Department's initial response was received by the Panel on December 31, 2005. The Panel requested additional information by identifying questions concerning the first goal area (Placement Stability), indicating that these questions were indicative of the type of documentation the Panel needed for all goal areas. A revised document was submitted by the Department on January 24, 2006. The documentation by the state did not consistently identify exactly which subcomponents of the action steps were completed by which date, so the Panel had to apply some judgments.

Implementation Status

The state used a variety of terms and phrases to describe progress on action steps, including "made significant progress," "partially complete," "in process." The Panel decided to make four principle judgments regarding the status of action steps (the numbers in parenthesis indicate the implementation status by these categories):

- ✓ Complete (5)
- ✓ Complete through performance period¹⁰ (8)
- ✓ Incomplete (32)
- ✓ Not yet due (13)

In addition, one action step will be assessed by the Panel in the next report because the activity has changed [2(c)(2)].

The Panel used the "comments" section of the matrix to provide further information on progress to date. Some action steps were assessed as complete through this performance period, but include some items with future completion dates. These items were noted with dotted lines. The term "penetration rate" is used in the comments section; this term refers to the percentage of the targeted population who have received a service/training, etc.

⁹ Kids Come First II is a restructuring plan for children's services described by the Department as an "aggressive effort to make long-lasting changes in the child welfare field [that] will further protect children and better address their medical and emotional needs." See: <www1.dshs.wa.gov/geninfo/cws.html>.

¹⁰ Action steps with some items due before and others after December 31, 2005 were assessed as "complete through performance period." For example, see action step 1(c)(3) on page 8.

Next Report

The Panel's next monitoring report will be issued in August 2005. This report will cover items due by this timeframe. Additionally, the August report will reassess items identified as "incomplete" in this March report and update the Panel's findings based on additional documentation that may be received from the Department.

The identifying numbers for action steps have varied depending on their location in particular documents: Kids Come First, the Settlement, or the Implementation Plan. To reduce confusion, this report does not create a new number for each item; rather, it uses the order from the Settlement and notes the Settlement reference number. Some action items were added in the Implementation Plan and are not included here as they are not yet due.

Monitoring Report

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Placement Stability		
<p>RFP for statewide foster parent recruitment</p> <p>KCF II 24.1.1 Action Step 1(c)(1) in Settlement</p> <p>Implement the RFP for providing statewide foster parent recruitment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete regional recruitment needs assessments 8/04 Develop recruitment performance expectations for contracts 8/04 Finalize Recruitment and Retention RFP (<i>includes regional, minority, sibling groups, adolescents and children with special needs</i>) 9/04 Issue Recruitment and Retention RFP 9/04 Review and select proposals 11/04 Concurrently develop implementation and communication plans 11/04 Begin implementation of 18 month regional/statewide contracted recruitment & retention services contracts 1/05 Orientation of staff and caregivers to regional/statewide contracted support services (first stage implementation) 1/05 Review every six months 7/05 	Incomplete	<p>Contracts were implemented in 1/05. No documentation provided on actual performance to date (i. review every six months)</p>
<p>Require multi-disciplinary case staffings for children in four or more placements</p> <p>KCF II 6.1.1* Action Step 1(c)(2) in Settlement</p> <p>Require multi-disciplinary case staffings for children who have been in three or more placements to build an intensive case plan to improve placement stability.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In collaboration with Tribes, LICWACS, and/or Indian Organizations, utilize CAMIS data on children in placement, length of stay and age of children, to develop a plan of implementation for review and approval of the Braam Panel (1/05) Braam Panel reviews and approves final plan (3/05) Communicate timeframes and guidelines to all social workers, supervisors and managers (5/05) Begin Phase I of the plan (conducting staffings for children in five or more placements) (5/05) Complete Phase I (5/06) Begin Phase II of the plan (conducting staffings for children in four or more placements) (5/06) Complete Phase II (5/07) Begin Phase III of the plan (conducting staffings for children on an ongoing basis for children in three or more placements) (5/07) <p>* The current version of this section in KCF II is different than in the version of KCF II in existence at the time of the Settlement (5/31/2004).</p>	Incomplete	<p>First draft of plan provided to Panel 6/6/05. Panel provided comments 8/19/05 and did not approve plan.</p> <p>Second plan submitted to Panel on 12/31/05; Panel review completed 3/10/06. Plan not approved by Panel.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Develop a plan for Panel review and approval, with input from the Plaintiffs to provide multidisciplinary and/or case staffings for children in three or more placements. (Plan developed by 1/15/05.)</p> <p><i>Action Step 1(c)(14)</i></p>	Incomplete	This action step overlaps with the previous one; however, it requires input from the Plaintiffs. No documentation of solicitation of this input was provided.
<p>Implement strategies to increase appropriate matching between children and caregivers at time of initial placement</p> <p>KCF II 6.2.2 (originally 6.2.4)</p> <p><i>Action Step 1(c)(3) in Settlement</i></p> <p>Implement strategies to increase appropriate matching between children and caregivers at the time of initial placement (e.g., increase completion rate of Pre-Passports within required timeframes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish workgroup to develop strategies, including a process for how to track appropriate matching at the initial placement (12/04) b. CA Management reviews and approves strategies (5/05) c. Make necessary policy changes to support strategy implementation (8/05) d. Provide education/training to staff to support implementation of strategies (11/05) e. Begin implementation of strategies (12/05) f. Review baseline for placement stability following a completed Pre-Passport, and set performance measure (6/06) g. Initiate quarterly reporting to the field (12/06) 	<p>Complete through performance period</p> <p>Not yet due</p>	
<p>Implement strategies to increase appropriate matching between children and caregivers for children who need to be replaced (beginning by December 2006 and fully implemented by December 2008).</p> <p><i>Action Step 1(c)(13) in Settlement</i></p>	Not yet due	
<p>Develop and implement policy to provide emergency respite to licensed foster care and relative caregivers to prevent disruption</p> <p>KCF II 6.1.3 (originally 6.1.2(a))</p> <p><i>Action Step 1(c)(4) in Settlement</i></p> <p>Provide respite to resource families to support placements at risk of disruption and provide appropriate access to respite care for caregivers requesting and needing this service, to include in-home respite care for licensed foster parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Review and revise existing respite policy to provide immediate respite to resource families where placement is at risk of disruption (12/04) b. Complete assessment of regional needs (4/05) c. Develop regional respite capacity to support respite policy (7/05) d. Communicate revised respite policy to social workers, supervisors and resource families (8/05) e. Revise academy training program and foster parent pre-service training program to reflect revised respite policy (9/05) 	Incomplete	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Increase the appropriate use of kinship care</p> <p>KCF II 8.3.2, 8.3.3, 21.1.1 (originally 20.1.1-21.1.2) Action Step 1(c)(6) in Settlement</p> <p>8.3.2 Develop and implement caregiver initial assessment policy to support immediate relative placements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Workgroup develops initial assessment tool and policy (12/04) CA Management reviews and approves appropriate recommendations (2/05) Provide training to social workers and supervisors (3/05-5/05) Revise DLR academy training to reflect policy change (5/05) Implementation statewide (6/05) <p>8.3.3 Implement relative home study</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Workgroup develops initial assessment tool and policy (12/04) CA Management reviews and approves appropriate recommendations (2/05) Provide training to staff (3/05-5/05) Implementation statewide (6/05) <p>21.1.1 Develop and implement revised policy framework for kinship care.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish policy workgroup to: (9/04) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop policy providing access to services for non-licensed kinship care providers; and Develop tools (e.g., ancestry chart, genogram) for Kinship care policy, including how it supports Tribal ICWA law requirements. CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (1/05) Make necessary policy changes to support framework. (4/05) Provide training to existing staff on policy framework and tools (5/05) Revise academy curriculum for new social workers to include kinship framework (6/05) Implement policy changes (7/05) 	<p>Incomplete</p>	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Revise and implement policy and procedure to provide for the involvement of children and parents in assessments, development of case plans and major decisions (including changes in placement)</p> <p>KCF II 13.1.1 Action Step 1(c)(7) in Settlement</p> <p>Review and revise policy and procedure regarding when and how service plans are written and updated, the involvement of children and parents and Tribes in assessments, development of case plans for in-home cases and out-of-home cases, and major decisions, to include practice guidelines for engaging children, Tribes and fathers in the process.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish policy workgroup to review current policy and make recommendations for necessary revisions (12/04-4/05) CA Management reviews and approves of appropriate recommendations (4/05-6/05) Revise academy training and post-academy training on permanency to reflect policy changes (7/05) Provide training to social workers and supervisors on policy and procedure revisions (7/05-9/05) Implement policy revisions (10/05) 	Incomplete	No data provided on number/percentage/ location of workers/ supervisors trained so Panel can assess penetration rate.
<p>Develop and implement annual local office and/or regional, plans for the recruitment and retention of foster homes that specifically assess the need for and availability of placement for children with special needs, and for respite (especially for adolescents).</p> <p>Such plans shall specify the recruitment activities targeted at increasing the number of such homes. The plans shall contain numerical targets for increases each year in the number of homes in the special populations of children listed above, beginning in July 2005 until the target identified in the plans is met.</p> <p>KCF II 24.1.3 (incorporated from Braam into KCF II) Action Step 1(c)(8) in Settlement</p>	Complete through performance period	
<p>Develop a plan by June 30, 2005 for Panel review and approval to reduce caseloads to COA standards.</p> <p>KCF II 14.1.8 (incorporated from Braam into KCF II) Action Step 1(c)(9) in Settlement</p> <p>Develop a plan by June 30, 2005 for review and approval by the Braam Panel to reduce caseloads to COA standards</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish workgroup to develop plan and estimate costs/resources required (1/05) CA Management reviews and approves plan (5/05) Plan submitted to Braam Panel for review (6/05) 	Incomplete	<p>First plan given to Panel 11/07/05; not approved.</p> <p>Second plan submitted 1/06. Plan not approved.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Notify child's representative (attorney/GAL/CASA) prior to placement move, except in emergencies. When a move has been made based on an emergency, the child's representative will be notified on the next business day.</p> <p>KCF II 6.1.4 (incorporated from Braam into KCF II) Action Step 1(c)(10) in Settlement</p> <p>Notify child's representative (attorney/GAL/CASA) prior to placement move, except in emergencies. When a move has been made based on an emergency, the child's representative will be notified on the next business day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop policy regarding notification to GAL/CASA (10/04) • Communicate policy to social workers, supervisors and GAL/CASA of policy requirement (11/04) • Implement policy (12/04) 	Complete	CA reports it is reviewing sample cases to assess initial compliance with requirement; review will be completed 2/06.
<p>A history of the child's placements will be reported to the Juvenile Court at each dependency review hearing as part of the child's Individual Safety and Service Plan (ISSP).</p> <p>KCF II 6.1.5 (incorporated from Braam into KCF II) Action Step 1(c)(11) in Settlement</p> <p>Develop policy to require reporting of a child's placement history to the Juvenile Court at each dependency review hearing as part of the child's Individual Safety and Service Plan (ISSP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizing workgroup from 7.1.6, review and revise ISSP and ISSP guidelines to provide clear history of child's placement (3/05) • Distribute revised ISSP and ISSP guidelines to social workers and supervisors (9/05-12/05) • Implement policy requirement to provide child's placement history to court at each dependency review hearing (1/06) 	<div>Complete through performance period</div> <div>Not yet due</div>	<div>CA reports case review study underway to assess initial compliance; to be completed by end of February and report filed with the Panel.</div>
<p>Consistent with the outcomes and benchmarks in Section IV.2, develop and begin to implement pilot programs in at least 3 sites providing therapeutic foster care using effective, evidence-based models of care for children with emotional and behavioral challenges. (By June 2005 develop RFP, award contracts and begin implementation of pilot projects)</p> <p>KCF II 17.2.1 (incorporated from Braam into KCF II) Action Step 1(c)(12) in Settlement</p> <p>Develop and implement pilot programs in at least 3 sites providing therapeutic foster care using effective, evidence-based models of care for children with emotional and behavioral challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop RFP (12/04) • Publish RFP (1/05) • Award contracts (3/05) • Implement pilot programs (6/05) 	Complete	

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Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Mental Health		
<p>Improve availability and utilization of regional medical consultants. KCF II 16.2.1 (originally 16.1.4) Action Step 2(c)(1) in Settlement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify clear roles and responsibilities of regional medical consultants (12/04) • Provide regional medical consultant for each region (.5 FTE/region) (5/05) • Communicate to staff about roles and responsibilities of medical consultants and how to access their services (6/05) • Review utilization history to determine how to increase effectiveness of consultants with lower utilization rates (6/30/06) 	<p>Complete through performance period</p> <hr/> <p>Not yet due</p>	
<p>Increase utilization of No Wrong Door Staffings (NWD) to identify needs for family and connect to services and resources. KCF II 16.1.5¹¹ Action Step 2(c)(2) in Settlement</p>	<p>To be determined by Panel in next report</p>	<p>CA no longer uses these staffings; Shared Planning Meetings have been substituted for NWD and a variety of other staffings.</p> <p>Department needs to propose revised action step with due dates.</p>
<p>In collaboration with community partners, utilizing CHET or any successor model, CA will identify regional service gaps and create plans to fill gaps through maximizing and developing local resources. KCF II 16.1.4 (originally 17.1.2) Action Step 2(c)(3) in Settlement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish regional workgroups (12/04) • Workgroups report out recommendations and plans (06/05) • Regional management teams review plans and approve recommendations (9/05) • Begin implementation of approved portions of regional plans (10/05) 	<p>Incomplete</p>	<p>CA documentation indicates regional workgroups are “in process” of making recommendations and plans.</p> <p>CA projects finish date of 6/06.</p>

¹¹ Although the Settlement references Section 16.1.5, there is no provision with this number. The correct citation may be 16.2.2.

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Implement newly developed agreements with each Regional Support Network.</p> <p>KCF II 17.1.4 Action Step 2(c)(4) in Settlement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOU between CA and Mental Health • Access to care standards • In coordination with regional offices, establish schedule for informational sessions (10/04) • Develop materials for sessions (03/05) • Begin implementation of schedule for informational sessions (05/05) • Conduct informational sessions on agreements in every region with particular focus on foster parents (12/30/05) 	Incomplete	<p>CA documentation indicates that sessions with RSNs began 5/05;</p> <p>Reported that sessions completed with Regions 5 and 6;</p> <p>Significant legislative changes made in community mental health delivery;</p> <p>Future informational sessions "on hold due to procurement process and MH Division. Ability to proceed will be reassessed 7/06 once procurement process has been completed."</p>
<p>Foster children's mental health will be periodically reassessed by mental health professionals</p> <p>KCF II 17.1.7 Action Step 2(c)(5) in Settlement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise policy and procedures to include requirement for periodic re-assessment (3/05) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ CA Management reviews and approves process (6/05) ✓ Orient staff to new policy requirement (9/05-12/05) ✓ Implement new policy (12/05) 	Incomplete	<p>CA projects approval of policy in 1/06 with implementation 3/06. No detail provided regarding strategy, approach.</p>
<p>The Department will develop, and encourage juvenile court judges to use, a checklist for each court review to prompt the Court to seek information on whether or not the physical health, mental health, substance abuse, educational, and cultural needs of dependent children are being met.</p> <p>KCF II 17.1.8 Action Step 2(c)(6) in Settlement</p> <p>Complete draft checklist (09/30/05) Orient staff to checklist (10/30/05) Implement field utilization and court review (12/30/05)</p> <hr/> <p>Review utilization of checklist by courts (06/30/07)</p>	<p>Complete through performance period</p> <hr/> <p>Not yet due</p>	<p>CA documentation indicates checklist developed in early 2006, and Court leaders have indicated they "plan to include the judicial checklist in the juvenile bench book" and the "checklist will be introduced at the Spring Judicial Conference on 4/15/06."</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Foster Parent Training and Information		
<p>Implement statewide after-hours crisis support line for foster parents and other caregivers</p> <p>KCF II 6.2.1 (originally 23.1.3) Action Step 3(c)(1) in Settlement</p> <p>Implement statewide after hours support crisis line for foster parents and caregivers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review current models for after hours support already in existence and develop strategies to take statewide (9/04) Develop program criteria (9/04) Hire and provide training to staff operating the program (11/04) Communicate with staff, caregivers and community partners (12/04) Create and provide "crisis cards" to foster parents (12/04) Implement program (5/05) Initiate quarterly progress reports to the field (9/05) 	Incomplete	<p>The crisis support line was implemented in 6/05.</p> <p>"Crisis cards" are to be distributed in early 2006.</p> <p>First report on utilization of line to be completed 1/06, and the Panel will receive the report.</p>
<p>Develop and implement cross-training between foster parents and staff</p> <p>KCF II 22.1.2 Action Step 3(c)(2) in Settlement</p> <p>Develop and implement cross-training between foster parents and staff (e.g., teamwork, problem resolution)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop training curriculum (9/04-12/04) Pilot training (1/05-2/05) Provide statewide training to social workers and foster parents (3/05-9/05) 	Incomplete	<p>CA reports that 18 training sessions were held in 2005 and will continue through 2006.</p> <p>Documentation did not include any information on number of participants by role category and location (social workers, foster parents) so Panel cannot assess penetration rate of training.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Require written notification to licensed foster parents and relative caregivers and provide support to increase their participation in meetings, staffings and hearings involving planning for children in their care</p> <p>KCF II 22.2.2 (originally 22.1.3) Action Step 3(c)(3) in Settlement</p> <p>Require notification to all resource families and provide support to increase participation and provide input in all meetings, staffings (including Child Protection Teams) and hearings involving planning for the children in their care</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish policy workgroup, including Child Protection Teams, to draft recommended policy revisions, including the automated process for notification, the tools for how that notification is to be conducted, and where notification is to be documented. Policy workgroup will further draft the cover letter for the ISSP which specifies date of hearing and definitions of “right to be heard” and “input” (12/04) Work group reports out draft recommendations (3/05) Begin development of an electronic process for tracking notification to foster parents of court hearings (4/05) CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (4/05) Provide orientation to all resource families and staff (5/05-8/05) Implement policy statewide (9/05) Implement electronic system changes statewide (10/05) Establish baseline for notification compliance and set performance measure (12/05) Initiate six month reports to the field on levels of compliance and participation (6/05) 	Incomplete	<p>CA documentation does not address:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> development of electronic process for tracking notification to foster parents of court hearings; provide orientation to all resource families and staff; implement electronic system changes statewide; establish baseline for notification compliance and set performance measure; or initiate six month reports to the field on levels of compliance and participation.
<p>Implement RFP for providing statewide crisis support and other immediate support for licensed foster parents and relative caregivers</p> <p>KCF II 23.1.1 (originally 23.1.2) Action Step 3(c)(4) in Settlement</p> <p>Implement the RFP for providing statewide foster parent support and recruitment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete regional recruitment needs assessments (8/04) Develop recruitment performance expectations for contracts (8/04) Finalize Recruitment and Retention RFP (includes regional, minority, sibling groups, adolescents and children with special needs) (9/04) Issue Recruitment and Retention RFP (9/04) Review and select proposals (11/04) Concurrently develop implementation and communication plans (11/04) Begin implementation of regional/statewide contracted recruitment & retention services contracts (1/05) Orientation of staff and caregivers to regional/statewide contracted support services (first stage implementation) (1/05) Review every six months (7/05) 	Incomplete	<p>Documentation indicates that crisis line is operational and foster parent support and retention contracts were implemented 1/05.</p> <p>No documentation on (h) staff and caregivers’ orientation, or (i) what 6-month review has found.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Provide training for licensed foster parents and relative caregivers on policy revisions and engaging families and children</p> <p>KCF II 4.2.3 (originally 13.1.1c) Action Step 3(c)(5) in Settlement</p> <p>Develop and provide training for staff, foster parents, community partners and contracted providers on engaging families, relatives and fathers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish planning group to develop training curriculum and training schedule (9/04) Complete development of training curriculum and publish training schedule (12/04) Provide regional based training to contract provider staff (1/05-4/05) 	Incomplete	<p>CA documentation indicates action step is "completed," but documentation does not detail number of training participants, their roles, and location, so Panel cannot assess penetration rate.</p>
<p>DLR licensors develop and implement annual assessment and development plans for foster parents, and relative caregivers utilizing feedback and input from DCFS workers, foster parents, and relative caregivers</p> <p>KCF II 6.2.5 (originally 23.1.6) Action Step 3(c)(6) in Settlement</p> <p>DLR Licensors develop and implement annual assessment and development plans for foster parents, utilizing feedback and input from DCFS workers (Braam Panel added: "foster parents and relative caregivers" to end of sentence).</p> <p>The following benchmarks were subject to 2005 budget request:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Workgroup develops evaluation tool and procedures (1/05-3/05) Establish evaluation schedule and monitoring system (6/05) Budget appropriations (7/05) Train licensing staff (7/05) Orientation for staff and foster parents (8/05) Begin annual evaluations (9/05) Complete cycle of evaluations (9/07) Report annually (9/06, 9/07) 	Incomplete	<p>Benchmarks in action step are associated with 2005 budget request; funding not received.</p> <p>CA plans "alternative approaches" to achieve "substantial compliance." Review to be complete 3/06.</p>
<p>Develop and implement a policy requiring ongoing training for licensed foster parents</p> <p>KCF II 40.2.1 Action Step 3(c)(7) in Settlement</p> <p>Develop and implement a policy requiring ongoing training for caregivers including engagement training as identified in section 14.3.1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Workgroup develops policy recommendations (10/04) CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (11/04) Adjust learning system data base to track compliance with policy requirements (12/04) Communicate policy to staff and caregivers (12/04) Implement policy (1/05) Initiate quarterly progress reports to the field (6/05) 	Incomplete	<p>No documentation regarding "f" quarterly progress reports to the field.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Licensed foster parents and relative caregivers shall be provided with the results and recommendations of all of the Department's screenings and assessments, including the Pre-Passport or its successor, for children placed in their home five days after its completion, unless expressly limited by law or a child's lawful assertion of confidentiality. Licensed foster parents and relative caregivers shall be provided a copy of the child's passport or its successor at the time of placement but no later than five days after its completion, unless expressly limited by law or a child's lawful assertion of confidentiality.</p> <p>KCF II 16.3.1, 16.3.2 Action Step 3(c)(8) in Settlement</p> <p>16.3.1 Provide licensed foster parents and relative caregivers with child's Passport at time of placement or not later than five days after completion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Workgroup reviews and revised current policy (1/05) CA Management reviews and approves policy recommendations (3/05) Orient staff and foster parents to new policy (6/05-9/05) Implement policy (9/05) Evaluate implementation through case review process (1/06) Initiate six month reporting (1/06) <p>16.3.2 Provide licensed foster parents and relative caregivers with results and recommendations of all screenings/ assessments for children placed in their home within five days of completion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Workgroup reviews and revised current policy (1/05) CA Management reviews and approves policy recommendations (3/05) Orient staff and foster parents to new policy (6/05-9/05) Implement policy (9/05) Evaluate implementation through case review process (1/06) Report out every six months (1/06) 	<p>Incomplete</p>	<p>This action step addresses 2 policies— providing passport at time of placement (or within 5 days) AND providing results of any screenings/assessments within 5 days of completion.</p> <p>CA reports that new CHET guidelines with this requirement were distributed to staff in 1/06.</p> <p>No documentation provided about 16.3.1— ensuring that children have a passport with them when placed.</p> <p>No documentation regarding performance (16.3.2 “e”).</p> <p>The draft shared planning meeting policy reviewed by the Panel to date has no mention of requirement to show the results and recommendations to those attending screenings.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Licensed foster parents and relative caregivers will be encouraged and supported to participate in staffings of pre-passports (or successor) for children placed in their homes.</p> <p>KCF II 22.2.2 Action Step 3(c)(9) in Settlement</p> <p>Require notification to all resource families and provide support to increase participation and provide input in all meetings, staffings (including Child Protection Teams), and hearings involving planning for the children in their care</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish policy workgroup, including Children's Administrative Technology Services (CATS), to draft recommended policy revisions, including the automated process for notification, the tools for how that notification is to be conducted, and where notification is to be documented. Policy workgroup will further draft the cover letter for the ISSP which specifies date of hearing and definitions of "right to be heard" and "input" (12/04) Work group reports out draft recommendations (3/05) Begin development of an electronic process for tracking notification to foster parents of court hearings (4/05) CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (4/05) Provide orientation to all resource families and staff (5/05-8/05) Implement policy statewide (9/05) Implement electronic system changes statewide (10/05) Establish baseline for notification compliance and set performance measure (12/05) Initiate six-month reports to the field on levels of compliance and participation (6/05) 	Incomplete	<p>No documentation regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> electronic process to track; orientation; electronic system changes; baseline; and six-month reports.
<p>Department shall provide appropriate access to respite care for caregivers requesting and needing this service.</p> <p>KCF II 23.1.4 Action Step 3(c)(10) in Settlement</p> <p>Provide respite to resource families to support placements at risk of disruption and provide appropriate access to respite care for caregivers requesting and needing this service (Refer to 6.1.3 for timelines)</p>	Incomplete	<p>Draft policy has been developed and approved by CA management. CA reports "implementation and resource issues remain."</p>
<p>The Department shall develop a plan, subject to review and approval of the Panel, for training of unlicensed caregivers.</p> <p>KCF II 40.3.2 Action Step 3(c)(11) in Settlement</p> <p>Develop a plan, subject to review and approval of the Braam Panel, for training of unlicensed caregivers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish workgroup to develop plan and estimate costs/resources required (1/06) CA Management reviews and approves plan (5/06) Plan submitted to Braam Panel for review (6/06) 	Not yet due	<p>Plan due to Panel 6/06</p>

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Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Unsafe/Inappropriate Placements		
<p>Increase contact between social worker and family, child and caregivers to at least once every 30 days</p> <p>KCF II 14.1.2 (originally 11.1.2) Action Step 4(c)(1) in Settlement</p> <p>For children placed in out-of-home care, develop and implement a policy to require 30-day visits between social worker and parents, and social worker and child IN ALL CASES This action step and following benchmarks are subject to 2005 budget request</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Utilizing policy workgroup from 14.1.1, develop policy recommendations (3/05-5/05) b. Workgroup reports out recommendations (5/05) c. CA Management reviews and approves policy recommendations (6/05) d. Budget decisions (7/05) e. Provide orientation to staff, caregivers and community partners on new policy requirement (7/05-9/05) f. Revise new social worker academy training to support new policy and practice guidelines (9/05) g. Based on available funding, implement policy changes (10/05) h. Establish baseline for compliance with policy changes and set performance measure (3/06) i. Initiate quarterly reporting to the field (6/06) 	Incomplete	
<p>Increase compliance with policy requiring workers to visit children in placement within the first week of out-of-home care</p> <p>KCF II 14.1.6 Action Step 4(c)(2) in Settlement</p> <p>Review and revise policy requiring social workers to visit all children in their placement within the first week in out-of-home care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish workgroup to review and revise policy (6/05) b. Orient staff to new policy requirement (8/05) c. <u>Begin implementation of new policy (10/05)</u> d. Establish regional baselines and set performance measure (6/06) e. Initiate quarterly reporting to the field (6/06) 	<p>Complete with performance period</p> <hr/> <p>Not yet due</p>	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>A face-to-face safety assessment with a child suspected to be a victim of child abuse or neglect while in the Department's custody shall occur within 24 hours of the report for emergent cases, and within 72 hours of the report for non-emergent cases.</p> <p>KCF II 1.1.5-1.1.8 (originally 1.1.4, 1.1.5) Action Step 4(c)(3) in Settlement</p> <p>1.1.5 Require social workers to make face-to-face contact with child victims suspected to be a victim of child abuse or neglect, while in the custody of CA, within 24 hours for referrals of child abuse and/or neglect rated as emergent.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish policy workgroup to develop recommendations regarding policy changes for 24 hour face-to-face contacts on emergent referrals (10/04) CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (1/05) Communicate policy changes with staff (2/05) Policy becomes effective and is implemented statewide (3/05) Establish baseline for compliance with policy change and set performance measure (6/05) Initiate quarterly progress reports to the field (9/05) <p>1.1.6 – Require DCFS social workers to make face-to-face contact with child victims within 24 hours for all referrals of child abuse and/or neglect rated as emergent.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish policy workgroup to develop recommendations regarding policy changes for 24 hour face-to-face contacts on emergent referrals (10/04) CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (1/05) Communicate policy changes with staff (2/05) Policy becomes effective and is implemented statewide (3/05) Establish baseline for compliance with policy change and set performance measure (6/05) Initiate quarterly progress reports to the field (9/05) <p>1.1.7 Require social workers to make face-to-face contact with child victims suspected to be a victim of child abuse or neglect, while in the custody of CA, within 72 hours for all referrals of child abuse and/or neglect rated as non-emergent.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Define expectation and practice guidelines for social workers to make first attempt for face-to-face contact with child victims on cases rated as non-emergent within five days from the date of referral (12/04) Review and report on progress towards compliance with expectation/practice guidelines (3/05) Establish policy workgroup to develop policy for increasing face-to-face contacts to 72 hours for all non-emergent referrals (6/05) CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (10/05) <p>The following benchmarks are subject to 2005 budget request:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implement policy for increasing face-to-face contact to 72 hours for all non-emergent referrals (12/05) 	Complete through performance period	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline for compliance with policy change and set performance measure (3/06) Initiate quarterly reporting to the field offices, including a review of progress towards achieving the goal (6/06) 	Not yet due	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Children in the custody of the Department will not be placed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutions not designed to receive foster children, such as adult mental hospitals or detox facilities where children and adults are commingled • A foster home without specialized training and support to provide for the safety of children in the home when sexually aggressive or physically assaultive children reside in the home • DSHS offices, including repeated daily stays at DSHS offices <p><i>Action Step 4(c)(4) in Settlement</i></p>	<p>Not yet due per benchmarks set in Implementation Plan</p>	

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Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Sibling Separation		
<p>Increase quality and frequency of visits between children and their siblings.</p> <p>KCF II 18.1.1</p> <p><i>Action Step 5(c)(1) in Settlement</i></p> <p>Develop policies and protocols regarding visitations for children in foster care to include frequency of visitation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a policy workgroup, including stakeholders and researchers, to develop a framework for visitations between parents and children and siblings that is utilized uniformly across regions. Framework to include guidelines for visitations which encompass: (9/04-12/04) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>When visitations can be unsupervised,</i> <i>When visitations can be outside of the DCFS office,</i> <i>When visitations can be outside DCFS office hours, and</i> <i>Who is able to supervise visits</i> <i>How the visitation issues will be addressed during the Family Team Decision Making meeting which occurs within 72 hours of a child's placement in out-of-home care.</i> <i>How the visitation issues will be addressed in other staffings and supervisory conferences</i> <i>Guidelines for documentation of visits for social workers and contracted service providers</i> Workgroup reports out recommendations (12/04) CA Management reviews and approves framework and policy recommendations (1/05) Provide training for staff and providers to support policy changes for visitations, quality of visitations and maintaining child's cultural connections (2/05-4/05) Implement policy changes upon training (2/05-4/05) Report out quarterly on progress (6/05-6/07) 	Incomplete	Draft policy under review by CA.

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Improve kinship support services. KCF 8.3.2, 8.3.3, 21.1.1 (originally 8.1.2) Action Step 5(c)(2) in Settlement</p> <p>8.3.2 Develop and implement caregiver initial assessment policy to support immediate relative placements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Workgroup develops initial assessment tool and policy (12/04) CA Management reviews and approves appropriate recommendations (2/05) Provide training to social workers and supervisors (3/05-5/05) Revise DLR academy training to reflect policy change 5/05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation statewide (6/05) <p>8.3.3 Implement relative home study</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Workgroup develops initial assessment tool and policy (12/04) CA Management reviews and approves appropriate recommendations (2/05) Provide training to staff (3/05– 5/05) Implementation statewide (6/05) <p>21.1.1 Develop and implement revised policy framework for kinship care.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish policy workgroup to: (9/04) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop policy providing access to services for non-licensed kinship care providers; and Develop tools (e.g., ancestry chart, genogram) for Kinship care policy, including how it supports Tribal ICWA law requirements. CA Management reviews and approves recommendations (1/05) Make necessary policy changes to support framework. (4/05) Provide training to existing staff on policy framework and tools (05/05) Revise academy curriculum for new social workers to include kinship framework (6/05) Implement policy changes (7/05) 	Incomplete	Revised policy to be reviewed by CA management 2/06.
<p>Hire and train relative search staff to support finding relative resources and supporting Family Team Meetings</p> <p>KCF II 8.3.4 Action Step 5(c)(3) in Settlement</p> <p>Hire and train relative search staff to support finding potential relative resources and Family Team Decision Making Meetings by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completing relative/father searches Identifying Tribal/Band affiliation Completing caregivers initial assessment <p>The following benchmarks are subject to 2005 budget request:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Budget decisions (7/05) Hire and train relative search staff (10/05) Implement (11/05) 	Incomplete	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Implement case conferences prior to dispositional hearing, as required by 2004 legislation</p> <p>KCF II 13.1.6 (originally 13.1.7) Action Step 5(c)(4) in Settlement</p> <p>Implement case conferences prior to dispositional hearing, as required by 2004 legislation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute interim practice guidelines (9/04) Develop final practice guidelines for staff (10/04) Orient staff, caregivers and community partners to case conference requirements (11/04) Implement final practice guidelines (12/04) Initiate quarterly reporting to the field (1/05) 	Incomplete	No documentation on “e,” quarterly reports.
<p>Develop and implement policies and protocols regarding visitation to children, parents, and siblings</p> <p>KCF II 18.1.1 (Note: The first action step in this section also references 18.1.1) Action Step 5(c)(5) in Settlement</p> <p>Develop policies and protocols regarding visitations for children in foster care to include frequency of visitation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a policy workgroup, including stakeholders and researchers, to develop a framework for visitations between parents and children and siblings that is utilized uniformly across regions. Framework to include guidelines for visitations which encompass: (9/04-12/04) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When visitations can be unsupervised, When visitations can be outside of the DCFS office, When visitations can be outside DCFS office hours, and Who is able to supervise visits How the visitation issues will be addressed during the Family Team Decision Making meeting which occurs within 72 hours of a child's placement in out-of-home care. How the visitation issues will be addressed in other staffings and supervisory conferences Guidelines for documentation of visits for social workers and contracted service providers Workgroup reports out recommendations (12/04) CA Management reviews and approves framework and policy recommendations (1/05) Provide training for staff and providers to support policy changes for visitations, quality of visitations and maintaining child's cultural connections (2/05-4/05) Implement policy changes upon training (2/05-4/05) Report out quarterly on progress (6/05-6/07) 	Incomplete	Implementation projected by CA for 5/06.
<p>Submit and, if approved, implement Title IV-E Demonstration Waiver to develop and deliver kinship supports</p> <p>KCF II 38.1.3 Action Step 5(c)(6) in Settlement</p>	Complete	Waiver was submitted in 1/04 but withdrawn, according to CA, because conflicting initiatives achieved same goal; cost was judged as prohibitive.

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Pursuant to plans developed under KCF II, implement strategies to recruit additional licensed foster care and relative caregivers willing and able to accommodate sibling groups (not specified in implementation Plan)</p> <p>KCF II 24.1.1 Action Step 5(c)(7) in Settlement</p> <p>Implement the RFP for providing statewide foster parent support and recruitment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete regional recruitment needs assessments (8/04) Develop recruitment performance expectations for contracts (8/04) Finalize Recruitment and Retention RFP (includes regional, minority, sibling groups, adolescents and children with special needs) (9/04) Issue Recruitment and Retention RFP (9/04) Review and select proposals (11/04) Concurrently develop implementation and communication plans (11/04) Begin implementation of 18 month regional/statewide contracted recruitment and retention services contracts (1/05) Orientation of staff and caregivers to regional/statewide contracted support services (first stage implementation) (1/05) Review every six months (7/05) 	<p>Incomplete</p>	<p>Documentation shows contracts for Region 3 did not identify sibling group focus; no explanation provided for this decision.</p>

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
Services to Adolescents		
<p>Develop an integrated, re-designed service model for adolescents</p> <p>KCF II 19.1.1 Action Step 6(c)(1) in Settlement</p> <p>In collaboration with other DSHS Administrations and community partners, develop an integrated, re-designed service model for adolescents. This action step and the following benchmarks are subject to 2005 budget request</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Workgroup develops recommendations for a redesigned service model for adolescents including budget (9/04-6/05) b. CA Management review (6/05-8/05) c. Recommendations and budget proposal reviewed by DSHS Cabinet (8/05) d. Budget appropriated (9/06) e. Begin implementation of re-designed service model (11/06) f. Complete implementation of re-designed service model (8/07) 	Not yet due	Implementation scheduled for 8/07.
<p>Establish Youth Advisory Group</p> <p>KCF II 19.1.7 Action Step 6(c)(8) in Settlement</p> <p>Establish Youth Advisory Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop model for youth advisory group (12/04) b. Locate and establish initial youth advisory members (1/05) c. Train youth advisory group (2/05) d. Begin youth advisory group meetings (to be conducted regularly) (4/05) 	Complete	Advisory group was established and has met.
<p>Establish educational outreach positions to assist children in out-of-home care in meeting K–12 educational objectives and preparing for higher education goals.</p> <p>KCF II 15.3.4 (originally 15.1.3) Action Step 3(c)(7) in Settlement</p> <p>Work with Washington Education Foundation to obtain funding and implement the Foster Care to College Partnership plan, which includes establishing six regional educational outreach positions, who will serve as liaisons to assist children (16-18 year olds) in out-of-home care in meeting higher education goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In collaboration with Washington Education Foundation, complete Foster Care to College Partnership proposal (10/04) b. Seek 3-year grant funding (10/04-2/05) c. Based on funding, begin implementation of the Foster Care to College Partnership plan (4/05) d. Report on implementation (9/05) e. Annual evaluation report (completed each year of the 3-year grant funding) (6/06, 6/07, 6/08) 	<p>Complete through performance period</p> <hr/> <p>Not yet due</p>	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Offer caregivers training on educational advocacy skills</p> <p>KCF II 15.4.1 (originally 15.1.5) Action Step 3(c)(9) in Settlement</p> <p>Develop and distribute educational brochures and/or information packets in collaboration with the education sector (<i>packets to include basic statewide information including: mandatory reporting information, and program descriptions for CA and schools</i>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In collaboration with OSPI, develop packet contents (10/04) Consolidate work products developed from HB 1058 workgroups for inclusion in packets (3/05) Customize information to target respective areas (6/05) Revise/draft CA policy to include distribution of material and to clarify roles of youth and caregivers (6/05) Develop plan for distribution of packets to youth, parents, relative caregivers, foster parents, school staff, social workers, and court (9/05) Begin implementation of distribution plan (12/05) 	Incomplete	
<p>Develop and implement tutoring and mentoring services, in conjunction with existing community resources, to improve educational outcomes for adolescents in out-of-home care.</p> <p>KCF II 15.2.3 (originally 15.1.2) Action Step 3(c)(10) in Settlement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Regional coordinators work with community partners to develop regional plans, including existing community resources and tutoring/mentoring programs (12/05) 	Incomplete	Educational contractors given this responsibility; they started work 2/06.
<p>Offer support services to foster youth until age 21</p> <p>Originally KCF II 10.1.1 Action Step 6(c)(2) in Settlement</p> <p>In collaboration with community partners, develop policy regarding discharge from care to enable youth to receive service until they are 21, unless they wish to opt out earlier and include policies requiring youth to be involved in a private or public educational, vocational program or employed to meet the criteria to remain in care. This actions step and following benchmarks are subject to 2005 budget request:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish workgroup to develop policy and program recommendations and draft proposed legislation recommendations (10/04 – 12/04) Submit draft legislation (12/04) Management reviews and approves recommendations (1/05 – 3/05) Budget appropriations and legislative decisions. (7/05) Complete necessary policy changes (and possible WAC changes) (8/05) Provide orientation to staff, caregivers, youth and community partners on policy changes (9/05) Implement policy and program changes (9/05 – 2/06) 	Incomplete	Documentation does not allow Panel to assess relationship between services that are provided and population needing/wanting services.

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Propose statutory change to extend out-of-home care benefits to children through age 21</p> <p>Originally KCF II 10.1.1 Action Step 6(c)(3) in Settlement</p> <p>In collaboration with community partners, develop policy regarding discharge from care to enable youth to receive service until they are 21, unless they wish to opt out earlier and include policies requiring youth to be involved in a private or public educational, vocational program or employed to meet the criteria to remain in care. This actions step and following benchmarks are subject to 2005 budget request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish workgroup to develop policy and program recommendations and draft proposed legislation recommendations (10/04 – 12/04) b. Submit draft legislation (12/04) c. Management reviews and approves recommendations (1/05 – 3/05) d. Budget appropriations and legislative decisions. (7/05) e. Complete necessary policy changes (and possible WAC changes) (8/05) f. Provide orientation to staff, caregivers, youth and community partners on policy changes (9/05) g. Implement policy and program changes (9/05 – 2/06) 	Complete	
<p>Establish post-guardianship support program</p> <p>Originally KCF II 21.1.3 Action Step 6(c)(5) in Settlement</p> <p>Expand support for kinship care providers to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop and implement regional resource centers to provide referrals and facilitate access to services to support post-adoption, permanent kinship families and guardianship providers (Refer to 9.3.1) (12/04) b. Provide crisis and support and other immediate support through implementation of statewide RFP for foster parent support services(Refer to 6.2.7) (01/05) c. Increase access to child specific services through expanded contracted services capacity (subject to budget) (Refer to 11.1.4) (03/06) d. Provide access to pre-service and post-service training provided by the Resource Family Training Institute (Refer to 40.3.1) (5/05) 	Incomplete	

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>Develop and implement regional resource centers for post-adoption kinship and post-guardianship families</p> <p>Originally KCF II 10.3.3, appears to be 21.1.3 Action Step 6(c)(6) in Settlement</p> <p>Expand support for kinship care providers to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement regional resource centers to provide referrals and facilitate access to services to support post-adoption, permanent kinship families and guardianship providers (Refer to 9.3.1) Provide crisis and support and other immediate support through implementation of statewide RFP for foster parent support services(Refer to 6.2.7) Increase access to child specific services through expanded contracted services capacity (subject to budget) (Refer to 11.1.4) Provide access to pre-service and post-service training provided by the Resource Family Training Institute (Refer to 40.3.1) 	Incomplete	
<p>The Department will review systemic data and literature on methods and supports to caregivers to decrease running away behaviors in adolescents, and develop and implement strategies to decrease runaway behaviors.</p> <p>3/07 December 31, 2006</p>	Not yet due	CA conducted literature review and developed new policy and procedures, which are scheduled for implementation 2/06.
<p>Complete implementation plan for 2003 legislation to increase educational stability of foster children (HB 1058). Complete and implement agreements with school districts, addressing transportation issues for children transferring schools upon placement or move between placements.</p> <p>KCF II 15.3.1, 15.3.2, 15.3.3 (originally 15.1.4) Action Step 1(c)(5) in Settlement</p> <p>15.3.1 In collaboration with partners, develop interagency working agreements between OSPI and CA to include protocols for effective information sharing and service planning for children in care</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide MOU between OSPI and CA signed (07/04) Conduct statewide summit to bring together regions with local school districts to get acquainted, build awareness, plan for regional meetings, and outline steps that will lead to a MOU between DCFS and local school districts (10/04) Each region completes agreements with 3-6 local school districts and report to HQ including basic elements of statewide MOU and address specifics such as transportation issues for children changing placements or transferring to other schools (7/05) Complete protocols with 30% of school districts within two years (7/06) <p>15.3.2 In collaboration with OSPI and local schools conduct regional Educational Achievement Summits</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Regional representatives attend statewide summit and regional breakout groups begin to plan region summits (10/04) Regions develop collaborative planning workgroups with local districts (6/05) Develop training and communication plan for staff in region and 	Not yet due	CA indicates it is on target to complete 30% of protocols by 7/06.

Area/Action Step	Implementation Status	Comments
<p>local school districts (9/05)</p> <p>15.3.3 Implement regional and statewide information and referral liaisons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Regions identify Education leads (10/04) b. Provide regional and/or office contacts in local agreements (12/04) c. Establish protocols in local agreements (6/05) d. Communicate with staff regarding identified contracts and local agreements (6/05) 		